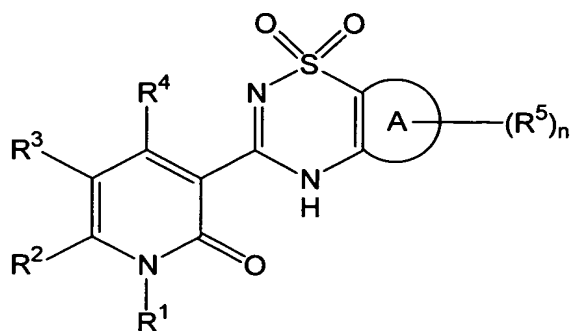


Abstract

5 The present invention provides an HCV polymerase inhibiting compound having the formula (I)



(I)

10 and a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of said compound. The present invention also provides a method for inhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) polymerase, a method for inhibiting HCV viral replication, and a method for treating or preventing HCV infection. Processes for making said compounds, and synthetic intermediates employed in said processes, are also provided.